

REMARKS

In response to the non-final Office Action of August 7, 2008, applicants request that all claims be allowed in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks. Claims 15-53 are pending in the application, of which claims 15, 23, 31, 45, and 53 are independent.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 15-51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,275,215 (Werndorfer). Applicants have amended independent claims 15, 23, 31, and 45 and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-51 because Werndorfer does not describe or suggest all of the features recited in each of amended independent claims 15, 23, 31, and 45.

Claims 15-22, 29, 30, and 50

As amended, independent claim 15 recites a computer-implemented method that includes, among other features, displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate multiple lists of identities with whom a user communicates electronically, wherein each individual list corresponds to a particular one of the accounts of the user, is separated from the other lists of identities, and contiguously lists a set of identities with whom the user communicates using the account to which the list corresponds. Werndorfer does not anticipate independent claim 15 at least because Werndorfer does not describe or suggest this feature of independent claim 15.

Werndorfer discloses a unified instant messaging client platform that is interoperable with multiple, normally incompatible instant messaging services. *See*, Werndorfer at col. 3, lines 38-62. As described by Werndorfer, the unified instant messaging client platform provides an instant messaging graphical user interface that enables a user to compose and send instant messages using the different, normally incompatible instant messaging services. *See, e.g.*, Werndorfer at col. 3, line 63 to col. 6, line 53.

FIG. 3 of Werndorfer, which is reproduced below for reference, provides an illustration of Werndorfer's instant messaging graphical user interface.

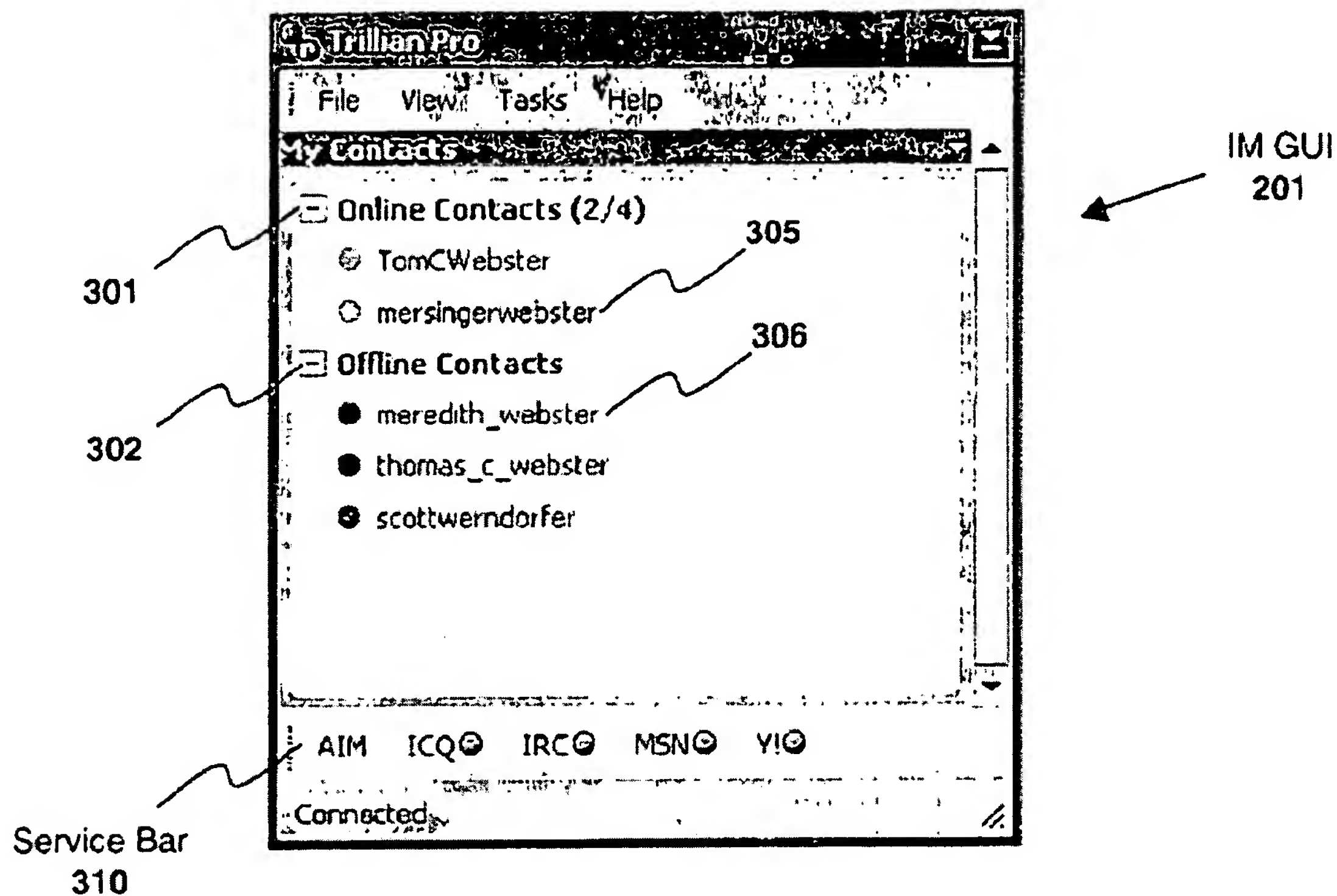


Fig. 3

FIG. 3 of Werndorfer.

As illustrated in FIG. 3, Werndorfer's instant messaging graphical user interface includes a single instant messaging contacts list that has been compiled for a user of Werndorfer's system by combining the user's instant messaging contacts lists from different, normally incompatible instant messaging services (i.e., AIM, ICQ, IRC, MSN, and Yahoo!) into a single instant messaging participant list. Individual icons displayed adjacent to the screen names in the instant messaging contacts list are used to identify the instant messaging contacts lists from which the different screen names have been drawn. For example, one icon is used to identify screen names

drawn from the user's AIM instant messaging participant list and a different icon is used to identify screen names drawn from the user's ICQ instant messaging participant list.

Notably, Werndorfer's instant messaging graphical user interface does not display the user's different instant messaging contacts lists separately such that each of the user's different instant messaging contacts list is separated from the user's other instant messaging contacts lists and contiguously lists the constituent screen names that make up the instant messaging contacts list. Rather, Werndorfer's instant messaging graphical user interface combines all of the screen names from the user's different instant messaging contacts list into a single list and arranges the screen names within the single list without regard for the instant messaging contacts lists from which they were drawn.

Consequently, Werndorfer does not describe or suggest displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate multiple lists of identities with whom a user communicates electronically, wherein each individual list corresponds to a particular one of the accounts of the user, is *separated from* the other lists of identities, and *contiguously lists* a set of identities with whom the user communicates using the account to which the list corresponds, as recited in independent claim 15. Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 15 and its dependent claims, claims 16-22, 29, 30, and 50.

Claims 23-28

As amended, independent claim 23 recites a graphical user interface that includes one or more window interfaces that are structured and arranged to enable a display portion to make perceivable two or more instant messaging contact lists, wherein each instant messaging contacts list is associated with one of the multiple accounts of the user, is separated from the other instant messaging contacts lists, and includes a contiguous listing of constituent instant messaging identities.

For reasons that are analogous to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 15, applicants submit that Werndorfer does not describe or suggest such a graphical user

interface. Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 23 and its dependent claims, claims 24-28.

Claims 31-44 and 51

As amended, independent claim 31 recites a computer-implemented method that includes, among other features, creating an association between a first account of a user and a second account of a user that triggers display of a single graphical user interface that is configured to display a first contacts list corresponding to the first account of the user separately from a second contacts list corresponding to the second account of the user such that the first contacts list includes a contiguous listing of users with whom the user communicates using the first account and the second contacts list includes a contiguous listing of users with whom the user communicates using the second account.

For reasons that are analogous to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 15, applicants submit that Werndorfer does not describe or suggest this feature of independent claim 31. Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 31 and its dependent claims, claims 32-44 and 51.

Claims 45-49

As amended, independent claim 45 recites a computer-implemented method that includes displaying, to a user who has both a first instant messaging account and a second instant messaging account, a single instant messaging graphical user interface that includes a first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user and that includes a contiguous listing of instant messaging contacts that the user has selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging contacts list, and a second instant messaging contacts list that is separated from the first instant messaging participant list, that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, and that includes a contiguous listing of instant messaging contacts that the user has selected for inclusion in the second instant messaging contacts list.

For reasons that are analogous to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 15, applicants submit that Werndorfer does not describe or suggest this feature of independent claim 45. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 45 and its dependent claims, claims 46-49.

New Claims

New independent claim 52 recites a computer-implemented method that includes, among other features, displaying a single graphical user interface that includes a first group label that corresponds to a first electronic messaging account of a user, a second group label that corresponds to a second electronic messaging account of the user, a first contiguous listing of multiple messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user that is oriented in a position corresponding to the first group label, and a second contiguous listing of multiple messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user that is separated from the first contiguous listing of multiple messaging contacts and that is oriented in a position corresponding to the second group label.

For reasons that are analogous to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 15, applicants submit that Werndorfer does not describe or suggest this feature of new independent claim 52. Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicants submit that independent claim 52 and dependent claim 53, which depends from independent claim 52, are allowable over Werndorfer.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims)

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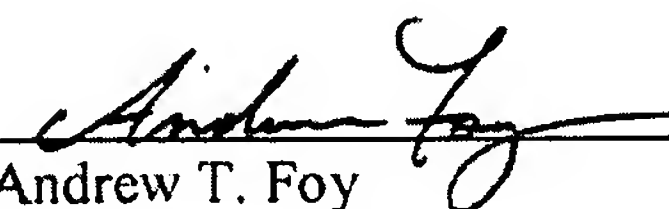
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that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

The fee in the amount of \$272 in payment of the Excess Claims Fee is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorizations. Please apply any other charges or credits associated with the filing of this paper or otherwise to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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